4. AA-ON/5	2
5. AA-ON/6	2
6. AA-ON/7	2
7. AAP-ON-94/1	2
8. AAP-ON-94/2	2
9. ARP-ON-92/3	1
10. CR-ON-90/1	3
11. BB-OS-90/3	1
12. BB-OS/8	3
13. CY-OS/4	1
14. KG-OS/5	1
15. KG-ON/1	3
16. RJ-ON-90/2	2
17. RJ-ON-94/1	1
18. RJ-ON-94/2	2
	33

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. AA-ON/4
2. AA-ON/6
3. AAP-ON-94/1
4. AA-ON/7
5. CR-ON-90/1
6. BB-OS/8
7. KG-ON/1

Joint Venture Exploration Round

Under this round 28 exploration blocks were offered in March, 1995. 22 bids were received for 7 blocks by last date of 15.9.1995 as under:—

Blocks	Number of bids received
1. AA-ONJ-1	1
2. AA-ONJ-2	1
3. ASM-ONJ-94/1	6
4. GK-OSJ-1	1
5. GK-OSJ-3	2
6. JM-ONJ-1	2
7. RJ-ONJ-94/9	9
	22

Government of India has approved award of contracts for the following blocks:—

1. RJ-ONJ-94/1
2. JM-ONJ-1
3. AA-ONJ2
4. GK-OSJ-1
5. GK-OSJ-3

Settlement of Pension cases of Retired Employees of Uttar Pradesh

2122. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are taking any action to get the pension of retired employees of Uttar Pradesh, whch is under President's rule, settled without delay;

(b) whether Government have not directed the concerned Department of Uttar Pradesh Government to redress the grievances of pensioners; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Agreement for Japanese-Loan for MRTS

2123. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Japan for a soft loan for the capital's Mass Rapid Transit system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total estimated cost thereof; and

(d) by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U.

VENKATESWARLU): (a) Formal agreement with O.E.C.F. (Japan) is likely to be signed only in January, 1997.

(b) and (c) Does not arise at this stage.

(d) By March, 2005.

Drinking Water for all

2124. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita rate of water supply in the country;

(b) whether the supply of drinking water in the urban and rural areas is satisfactory; and

(c) if not, what are the schemes, on Governmental or non-Governmental level, being undertaken to ensure drinking water to every citizen of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) The following norms are being followed for providing safe drinking water.

Rural Areas:

(i) 40 litres of safe drinking water per capita per day (lp cd) for human beings.

Urban Areas:

(i) 125 lp cd where piped water supply and under ground sewerage system are available and 70 lp cd provided with piped water supply but without under ground sewerage system.

(ii) 40 lpcd for towns with spot sources/Stand posts.

(b) and (c) 84.33% Urban population has been covered with safe drinking water supply as on 1.3.1993. As on 1.4. 1996, the Rural population covered with safe drinking water supply is 81,66%. The Central Government have launched Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme for providing safe Drinking water facilities to town having population less than 20,000. It is expected that the remaining urban population will be covered with supply of safe drinking water by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of funds. Similarly all the not covered and partially covered rural habitations are expected to be covered with safe drinking water by 1997-98 and 2000 AD respectively.

Rejection of Pooyamkutty Power Project in Kerala

2125. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 688 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 1996 and state:

(a) the names of persons appointed on the Committee for an indepth study of pooyamkutty power project in Kerala;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, by when the Committee is likely to submit the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has constituted a Committee in October, 1996 for indepth analysis for Pooyamkutty Hydroelectric Project. The Committee is headed by Prof. M.V. Nadkarni of the Institute of Socio-Economic Change, Bangalore and the other members are Directors of Zoological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India. As per the terms of the committee notified the committee shall finalise the report and submit the same within three months from the date of its first meeting.